

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Applicants have cancelled claims 18-21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4-7 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-3, 8-14, and 17 are presently pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration are hereby respectfully requested.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

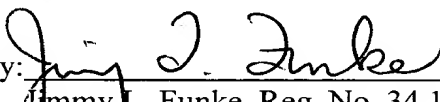
Applicants appreciate the indication that pending claims 1-3, 8-14, and 17 have been allowed.

III. CONCLUSION

For at least the above-cited reasons, all claims pending in the present application have been allowed. Early receipt of a Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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